

Message Text

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INFO COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC
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CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA

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SECDEF FOR OASD(C3I)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO ETEL MARR
SUBJECT: NATO SATCOM TAIL AT NORFOLK

REF: (A) NICSMA/RF(77)68 DTD 26 SEP 77, (B) STATE 226240
DTG 210020Z SEP 77 (NOTAL), (C) USNATO 9700 DTG 071913Z
OCT 77
SUMMARY: ON 18 OCT 77, THE WORKING GROUP OF NATIONAL
COMMUNICATIONS EXPERTS, WG-18, SCREENED NICSMA'S B ESTIMATE
FOR SUBJECT LINE-OF-SIGHT (LOS) COMMUNICATION SYSTEM
(REF A). BESIDES PRESENTING ITS B ESTIMATE, NICSMA ALSO
PROVIDED BACKGROUND ON US INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROJECT AND
SUMMARIZED THE LATEST US RATIONALIZATION OFFER (REF B),
NOTING THAT IT OFFERED NO COST SAVINGS TO NATO AND APPEAR-
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ED TO BE LESS ADVANTAGEOUS TO NATO TECHNICALLY AND OPERA-
TIONALLY. THE US MEMBER QUESTIONED WHETHER THE TOWER
PROPOSED AT SACLANT BLDG NH-95 HAD BEEN CLEARED FOR AIR
SAFETY (DUE TO ITS PROXIMITY TO THE NEARBY NAVAL AIRFIELD).
AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION, WG-18 POSTPONED FURTHER SCREENING
UNTIL 7 NOV, PENDING APPROVAL OF THE TOWER BY US AUTHORI-
TIES. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE AND RESPONSE

TO SPECIFIC INFORMATION REQUESTS PRIOR TO NOV 7, 1977.

1. ON 18 OCT 77, WG-18 BEGAN SCREENING NICSMA'S B ESTIMATE FOR SUBJECT PROJECT. PRIOR TO EXPLAINING THE PROPOSED NICSMA APPROACH IN THE B ESTIMATE, NICSMA REPS INFORMED WG-18 OF THE HISTORY OF US INTEREST IN THE PROJECT, SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

. A. IN 1974-75, NICSMA BEGAN PLANNING FOR A SATCOM TAIL TO PROVIDE SERVICE FOR THE EXPANDED NATO III CAPABILITY AND ASKED THE US IF IT DESIRED TO PARTICIPATE. THE US RESPONSE WAS NEGATIVE.

. B. IN JAN 76, NICSMA PREPARED A DRAFT B ESTIMATE FOR AN LOS SYSTEM BASED ON SURVEYS MADE AT THE NATO L3 SATELLITE GROUND TERMINAL (SGT) LOCATION; A RELAY SITE AT AN ABANDONED US NIKE INSTALLATION AT BOONE, VA; AND SACLANT HQ COMPOUND. AT THE SAME TIME, NICSMA REQUESTED THE US TO PREPARE CIVIL WORKS REQUIREMENTS BASED ON THE DRAFT B ESTIMATE.

. C. IN FEB 76, THE US OFFERED NICSMA A 120-CHANNEL CAPABILITY ON A US-PROVIDED SYSTEM PLANNED FOR OPERATION IN FEB 1978. NICSMA REQUESTED AND RECEIVED COST INFORMATION FROM THE US. BETWEEN FEB 76 AND SEP 77, A MORE-OR-LESS CONTINUING DIALOGUE OCCURRED BETWEEN THE US AND CONFIDENTIAL

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NICSMA, DURING WHICH TIME THE COSTS AND TIME-SCALE OF THE US OFFER WERE REFINED.

. D. IN SEP 77, THE US MADE A NEW PROPOSAL TO NATO (REF B) OFFERING NATO SHARED USE OF ITS PLANNED DRAMA RADIO SYSTEM WITH FIBRE OPTIC CABLES TO EXTEND THIS US LOS SYSTEM TO THE NATO USERS.

. E. WHEN NICSMA REQUESTED FURTHER TECHNICAL AND COST INFORMATION ON THE LATEST US OFFER (REF C), TWO US NAVY REPS VISITED NICSMA ON 13-14 OCT TO PROVIDE DETAILS AND COSTS ON THE US OFFER, AND TO RESOLVE US QUESTIONS ON NICSMA'S B ESTIMATE.

. F. A REVISED, LOWER COST US OFFER WAS PROVIDED BY THE NAVY REPS. THIS OFFER INCLUDED THE DRAMA RADIO, A FIBRE OPTIC CABLE LINKING BUILDINGS NH-95 AND M-51 AT NORFOLK, AND USE OF EXISTING MULTI-PAIR VOICE-FREQUENCY CABLE BETWEEN THE US AND NATO SATCOM GROUND TERMINALS AT NORTHWEST, VA.

. G. THE RESULTING OFFER, INCLUDING CIVIL WORKS, TOTALLED APPROXIMATELY \$660K, AN AMOUNT COMPARABLE TO

THE NICSMA PROPOSED SOLUTION.

. H. AS OF 18 OCT, NICSMA SUMMARIZED THE US OFFER
AS FOLLOWS:

. (1) THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF THE DRAMA LOS
SYSTEM REQUIRES AN INTERIM SOLUTION WHICH CREATES AN
ADDITIONAL COST TO NATO ABOVE THE NICSMA-PROPOSED
APPROACH.

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. (2) THE COST DIFFERENTIAL IS NOT SIGNIFICANT
UNLESS CRYPTO COSTS ARE INCLUDED, IN WHICH CASE THE NATO
SOLUTION IS CHEAPER.

. (3) FROM NATO'S POINT OF VIEW, THE NICSMA
PROPOSAL HAS THE FOLLOWING ADVANTAGES OVER THE US PROPOSAL:

- . - IT HAS ONLY TWO LINKS COMPARED TO FOUR
IN THE US PROPOSAL.
- . - COMPLETION IS INDEPENT OF OTHER US PROJECTS.
- . - NO INTERIM SOLUTION IS REQUIRED.

. - IF BOONE IS USED AS A RELAY SITE, REDUNDANT
RELAY SITES EXIST, OFFERING SOME IMPROVEMENT IN OVERALL
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RELIABILITY.

. (4) ON 15 OCT, NICSMA WAS TOLD INFORMALLY THAT
THE US WAS NOT PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE \$660K COST FIGURES
AS FINAL, PENDING FURTHER REVIEW TO SEEK TO REDUCE THEM.
(FYI: NICSMA WAS SO INFORMED AT THE SPECIFIC REQUEST OF
MR NORMAN GRAY, ASD(C3I), AFTER BEING BRIEFED ON THE
STATUS OF THE US OFFER BY MR J PICARDI, NAVTELCOM, AND
DR J SOOS, USNATO, END FYI.)

2. NICSMA NEXT SUMMARIZED ITS PROPOSED SOLUTION, BRING-
ING OUT THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

. A. NICSMA HAD SURVEYED AND INTENDED TO USE BOONE
AS A RELAY SITE. AT SACLANT REQUEST, THEY SHIFTED THE
RELAY SITE TO DRIVER, VA (A US NAVY COMMUNICATIONS RELAY
SITE THREE MILES AWAY).

. B. US ANALYSIS OF NICSMA'S B ESTIMATE INDICATES
THAT NICSMA DID NOT TAKE LOCAL TREE HEIGHTS INTO ACCOUNT,
CAUSING A NEED FOR A HIGHER TOWER AT SACLANT BLDG NH-95
OR AT THE RELAY SITE, OR BOTH.

. C. THE US INFORMED NICSMA OF THE NEED TO OBTAIN AIR
SAFETY APPROVAL FOR THE TOWER AT NH-95 DUE TO ITS PROXIM-
ITY TO A NEARBY AIRFIELD AND ITS ALIGNMENT WITH A MAIN
RUNWAY.

4. THE CHAIRMAN OF WG-18 (CIONI, INTERNATIONAL STAFF)
QUESTIONED THE US MEMBER (SOOS) ABOUT THE CHANGE IN THE
US POSITION; I.E. FROM DECLINING TO PARTICIPATE IN 1974
TO URGING RATIONALIZATION IN 1977. THE US MEMBER
REMINDS THE WORKING GROUP OF THE VERY STRONG US POLICY
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AT PRESENT CONCERNING RATIONALIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY,
CITING RECENT CONGRESSIONAL AND ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS
EMPHASIZING THESE OBJECTIVES FOR US POLICY REGARDING NATO.

5. THE US MEMBER THEN QUESTIONED THE UTILITY OF SCREENING
THE PROJECT FURTHER, PENDING RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL FOR

A TOWER AT NH-95 AND CONFIRMATION THAT FREQUENCIES ARE AVAILABLE. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION, WG-18 AGREED TO POSTPONE FURTHER SCREENING UNTIL 7 NOV 77 AND REQUESTED NICSMA AND THE US TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

. A. A DEFINITIVE "LAST AND BEST" US OFFER WITH COMPLETE AND DETAILED COSTS.

. B. A US RULING ON APPROVAL OF A TOWER AT NH-95.
(COMMENT: NATO REPS ARE AWARE OF FAA CHARTS WHICH ALLOW SUCH A DETERMINATION TO BE MADE WITHIN A DAY OR TWO, AND WHICH ARE AVAILABLE TO US MILITARY ENGINEERING AGENCIES.
END COMMENT.)

. C. A STATEMENT FROM THE US ON THE AVAILABILITY AND SUITABILITY OF THE RELAY SITE AT BOONE FOR NATO USE.

. D. A RESPONSE FROM THE US AS TO WHETHER IT WOULD CONSIDER MEETING ITS NEEDS BY SHARING WITH THE NICSMA PROPOSED SOLUTION, AND IF SO, COMPLETE AND DETAILED COSTS OF THIS COURSE AS VIEWED BY THE US.

. E. A STATEMENT BY THE US AS TO WHETHER IT WOULD BE WILLING TO UNDERTAKE COMPLETE HOST NATION RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NATO PROJECT, AND IF SO, A COMPLETE AND DETAILED

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COST-SHARING PROPOSAL.

. F. CONFIRMATION BY THE US THAT FREQUENCIES FOR A NATO-OWNED LOS SYSTEM ARE AVAILABLE. (THE US INFORMED NICSMA IN 1976 THAT FREQUENCIES WERE AVAILABLE FOR USE BY NICSMA FOR A 120-CHANNEL DIGITAL SYSTEM IN THE 7-GHZ BAND BUT THAT APPROVAL OF DISCRETE FREQUENCY ASSIGNMENTS IS CONTINGENT UPON AN ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY ANALYSIS AND FURTHER COORDINATION IN THE US.)

. G. THE NATO-OWNED LOS SYSTEM OFFERS SEVERAL ADVANTAGES TO NATO. CONSEQUENTLY, FOR NATO TO ACCEPT SHARING THE US SYSTEM, THAT APPROACH MUST BE DEFINITELY CHEAPER. IT APPEARS THAT THE INTERIM PHASE OF THE US-SHARED SOLUTION PREVENTS THIS APPROACH FROM BEING OF CONSIDERABLY LOWER COST THAN THE NATO-OWNED SYSTEM. IF THE UPGRADE
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OF THE NATO SGT AT NORFOLK IS DELAYED SUFFICIENTLY, THIS INTERIM PHASE MAY BE UNNECESSARY. IT IS POSSIBLE (ACCORDING TO INFORMAL INFORMATION, PERHAPS PROBABLE) THAT NICSMA WILL DECLARE ONE SGT PROJECT BIDDER NON-RESPONSIVE. IF SO, A PROTEST MAY RESULT, CAUSING A DELAY IN THE SGT PROGRAM. THIS DELAY, IF LONG ENOUGH, COULD OBTAIN THE NEED FOR THE INTERIM PHASE OF THE US SHARED SOLUTION, MAKING RATIONALIZATION THE FAVORABLE COURSE. WE WILL PURSUE THIS OPTION TO THE EXTENT THAT DEVELOPMENTS PERMIT.

7. ANOTHER COST ELEMENT REQUIRING ATTENTION IS CRYPTO EQUIPMENT TO RECEIVE THE TWO ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES. THE NATO-OWNED SOLUTION REQUIRES TWO BULK ENCRYPTION DEVICES, ONE AT EACH END OF THE LOS SYSTEM. IN THE SHARED SYSTEM, THE US WILL PROVIDE BULK ENCRYPTION OF THE RADIO LINKS, BUT NATO MUST PROVIDE ENCRYPTION OF THE CABLE ENDS. THE FIBRE OPTIC CABLE AT THE NORFOLK END CAN BE ENCRYPTED RATHER SIMPLY; THE MULTI-PAIR CABLE AT THE NORTHWEST (SGT) END, HOWEVER, PRESENTS PROBLEMS IF THAT CABLE MUST BE SECURED.

8. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE US RESPOND FORTHRIGHTLY AND AS COMPLETELY AS POSSIBLE TO THE INFORMATION REQUESTS IN PARA 5, ABOVE. FURTHER, IF THE US CANNOT DEMONSTRATE THAT THE SHARED SYSTEM IS A LOWER COST SOLUTION, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE US AGREE TO A NATO-OWNED SYSTEM, NOTWITHSTANDING THE DESIRE WE SHARE WITH WASHINGTON TO

RATIONALIZE THESE SYSTEMS IF AT ALL FEASIBLE.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE AND RESPONSE
TO INFORMATION REQUESTS IN PARA 5 PRIOR TO NOV 7, 1977.

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